

King County Mobility Coalition

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 16th, 2016, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

City of Kent, Senior Activity Center

600 E Smith Street, Kent, WA 98030

In attendance:

Members/Alternates: Hamdi Abdulle, William Ayears, Gaby Bell, Alaric Bien, Amy Biggs, Dorene Cornwell, Kailey Fiedler-Gohlke, Dezerae Hayes, Ref Lindmark (co-chair), Jacque Mann, Hollianne Monson, Jon Morrison Winters, Scott Ninneman, Alex O'Reilly (co-chair), Jim Seek, Priscilla Vargas, Dave Waggoner, Kari Ware, Caitlin Wasley, Dinah Wilson, Cindy Zwart

Collaborators: Jeanne Acutanza, Paige Burdick Blazei, Tristan Cook, Celeste Endlich, Brian Galloway, Michael Given, Jerri Kelly, Elizabeth King, Ray Krueger, Briana Lovell, Teresa Palella, Mahinda Werake, Bill Woolley

Staff: Staci Haber

Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Ref Lindmark, Coalition Co-chair, opened the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

New Introductions:

- Jon Morrison Winters is now with the City of Seattle Aging and Disability Services.
- Ray Kruegar is a Hopelink Travel Ambassador Program Volunteer.
- Jerri Kelly is the Mobility Manager for Pierce County. Jerri discussed her work with the Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition and their focus on regional issues.
- Tanya Atkinson is from the Alliance for People with disAbilities and has previously worked with the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative.

Ref Lindmark announced his retirement and his last meeting with the King County Mobility Coalition. His replacement will also focus on special needs populations within Metro's Market Development.

Consent Calendar

November 2015 Meeting Minutes: The Coalition approved the meeting minutes as drafted.

New Members and Alternates: the Coalition confirmed the appointment of the following members and alternates:

- Hollianne Monson of Catholic Community Services as member representing Faith Based Organization. Hollianne is replacing Eileen Rasnack, who has moved to a new position.
- Melony Joyce is returning as the King County Metro alternate.
- Aaron McCullough is the member for Sound Transit, replacing Michael Miller, who has retired.
- Kathy Hardy of the City of Kent is the South County City alternate.
- Saleh Mohamed is the Taxis/For-Profit Transportation alternate.
- Jon Morrison Winters of Aging and Disability Services as the Seattle City member. Jon is replacing Irene Stewart.

Co-Chair 2016 Elections: Ref announced the opportunity for a new co-chair alongside Alex O'Reilly. There was an interest in a transit-related representative to serve in this role. Melony Joyce, King County Metro, had previously nominated herself for this position. Ref solicited participation for any other nominations. A survey will be sent out to the members and alternates the following week to vote on the new co-chair.

Briefing: Mobility for Refugees in King County

Alex introduced Caitlin Wasley from World Relief and Hamdi Abdulle from Somali Youth and Family Club. Caitlin shared a presentation about mobility needs and issues of refugees in King County. The presentation included an overview on the definition of refugees, current initiatives and programs related to increasing their mobility opportunities once they arrive in King County, and remaining challenges and barriers.

Refugees need to learn how to ride the bus very soon after they arrive but case workers are constrained with training individuals on how to use the system. Current barriers include language, limited financial means, and the long distances for travelling as affordable housing tends to be located away from job opportunities. When applying for employment, case workers inform participants to expect a two-hour commute one-way for future employment opportunities. Given the circumstances, participants perceive a personal vehicle is necessary before starting employment. Other barriers include confusion around the transit network and high incidence of motion sickness. ORCA LIFT has been a very successful program for the participants. There is also a high use of smart phone apps when travelling to aid in navigation.

Tanya Atkinson asked about data on refugees with disabilities. There's a specialized case worker that works directly with individuals with disabilities. World Relief works primarily with young families.

Dorene Cornwell inquired on support in the school system. School liaisons are available to work with families. Dorene mentioned the organization Open Doors for Multicultural Families, which focuses on services for children with special needs.

Another inquiry was on the use of Communication Cards for riders who are not English speakers. At this time it is not included in the program given the heavy workload but recognizes the importance of this tool.

Alex reiterated the importance of restarting the Outreach Committee given the past focus on immigrants and refugees.

The Coalition thanked Caitlin for her presentation.

Briefing: Metro's Long Range Plan

Ref introduced Briana Lovell, Transportation Planner at King County Metro. Briana presented on Metro's Long Range Plan for 2040. Some highlights include Metro's plan to triple the number of boardings and allow 70% of people to live within ½ mile of frequent service (up from 20%).

Amy Biggs asked if Metro would be interested in creating an advisory group specifically focused on the rural area since fixed route isn't always the best solution given the need for feeder service. Metro recognizes the different needs from urban to suburban to rural and would consider engagement and discussion surrounding this issue. Amy clarified there is a large portion of residents in Snoqualmie Valley who are low income so there's a need for transportation service that's affordable.

Gaby Bell commented on the success of a unified payment system across transit services. Gaby also requested wheelchair accessible vehicles be added to the vanpool fleet. Priscilla Vargas, Manager, Metro's Paratransit/Rideshare Operations, stated accessible vehicles are available for passengers who use vanpool but are not currently configured to allow for drivers who use a wheelchair, but that's a possibility. Participants who fill out the survey on RideShareOnline are asked if an accessibility accommodation is needed.

Jerri commented on the importance of service that crosses county boundaries. Metro has heard about the need for accessing services in Pierce County and understands the issues.

Jim Seeks is requesting a level of nimbleness when implementing a long-range plan. The implementation strategy will include resources to continue coordination and staff relationships. The plan will evolve, both in the service and the customer experience.

Coalition members also commented on the importance of providing transit near affordable housing.

Alex thanked Metro for their openness in speaking with community groups since Open Houses are not always the best forum to provide input. Alex recommended Metro present at the three subregional coalitions to disseminate feedback and provide more opportunities for input. Metro is open to this opportunity.

Any other comments to Metro can be forwarded to Staci Haber, acting Coalition staff, and will be forward to Metro. More information can be found at <http://www.kcmetrovision.org/>.

The Coalition thanked Briana for her presentation.

King County Mobility Coalition 5-Year Action Plan Updates

Alex discussed the progress in KCMC's 5-Year Action Plan. One new initiative was from the Access to Healthcare Subcommittee, and the development of a *Transportation Tips* handout, initially created for Sea Mar and recently completed at Harborview. The goal is to create this tool for a medical facility on the Eastside as well as North King County.

Elizabeth King, Emergency Management Program Manager, Hopelink, updated the Coalition on Emergency Management Coordination and solicited participation from transportation providers to participate in the workgroup. The first in four workshops on this topic will be taking place on March 3rd in Boeing Field. Dave Waggoner acknowledged there is no public transit to this facility. This caveat will be considered when planning the next workshop.

Staci Haber provided a status update on the Veterans Subcommittee. The new VISTA Coordinator at Hopelink will be starting at the end of February and will be spearheading this subcommittee.

Quick Briefings:

King County Metro Update:

Ref updated the Coalition on the opening of two new Link Light Rail stations in Capitol Hill and UDistrict on March 19th. Metro will be having their largest service change one week after the station openings to accommodate access to the light rail. One major

issue is that paper transfers will not be honored on the light rail and people with limited income may be directly impacted by this change. Ref recommended working with community based organizations and clients to ensure individuals are educated on the ORCA card. Staff will be available at the stations to sign people up for ORCA cards, including LIFT and RRFP.

Tanya Atkinson asked if the outreach will allow someone with a disability to obtain their RRFP card without traveling to Seattle to take a picture. The ORCA To-Go has the equipment to sign up people with disabilities on the spot.

Changes to the schedule are already available online and materials will be distributed closer to the change.

Ref also announced an initiative to conduct outreach on Late Night Bus Service.

Next Steps

Alex announced a secret agenda to celebrate Ref's retirement. The Coalition members were notified ahead of time and the agenda transitioned to bicycle cupcakes and thank yous to Ref Lindmark for his years of dedicated service to Metro and the King County Mobility Coalition. Thank you Ref!

- Next Meeting: **Tuesday, May 19, 2016** from 9:30 – 11:30 AM in North King County

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>